

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF JAPAN
Editorial Committee Helen Post-- Stanley Manierre-- Akiko Yamaguchi

No. 349 - July 25, 1969

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MASAAKI NAKASHIMA RECOMMENDED FOR NCC GENERAL SECRETARYSHIP

Rev. Masaaki Nakashima, 42, pastor of the Kokubunji Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan, is being recommended for the general secretaryship of the National Christian Council of Japan by action of the NCC executive committee, at its July 8 meeting. Nakashima's appointment is expected to be formalized when the NCC central committee meets next in October.

"Nakashima is a man who, from his own experience, is convinced that inter-denominational cooperation is essential if the churches are to minister to today's urban society," said Dr. Isamu Omura, chairman of NCC, in proposing Nakashima for this key post.

Nakashima is secretary of the United Church's committee on education, chairman of the Council of Cooperation's missionary orientation committee, and a member of the NCC missionary orientation committee. Before going to the Kokubunji Church, located in a suburb of Tokyo, in 1967, he served for three years as full-time secretary of mission for the Hokkai district. Prior to that he was pastor of Asahikawa Roku Jo Church in Hokkaido.

Nakashima has also had experience as a pastor in the United States, serving the United Presbyterian Church of Westfield, New Jersey, from July 1962 to January 1964. For the first three months of this year he participated in the Mission Possible program, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

A graduate of Doshisha Theological Seminary, Nakashima received his M. Th. degree from Immanuel College, Toronto, Canada, in 1962. He is married and has four children.

Dr. In Ha Lee, who has been interim general secretary since the April 1967 general assembly, has been appointed executive secretary of the Ecumenical Asian Conference on Development, to be held in Japan in July of next year.

MASAHISA SUZUKI DIES

Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, moderator of The United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan) died July 14 in Tokyo of cancer. He was 56 years old. The funeral service was held Saturday, July 19, at Joshi Gakuin auditorium, Tokyo.

Suzuki, who served as the moderator of the Kyodan for almost three years, following his election at the 14th General Assembly in 1966 and his re-election in 1968, was recognized also as an ecumenical leader in the Japanese church. He was on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, having been elected at the Fourth Assembly of the WCC in Uppsala in 1968. He has served as a member of the central committee of the Japan National Christian Council and as chairman of the committee on minority problems.

Dr. Isamu Omura, chairman of NCC, paid tribute to Suzuki as "a man of outstanding personality and leadership who has changed the course of the stream of the church history of modern Japan." He recalled Suzuki's accomplishments, as seen particularly in the Confession of War Responsibility, issued on Easter, 1967, and the union of the United Church of Christ in Okinawa and the Japan Kyodan, a foretaste of the political union.

Rev. Kiyoshi Ii, who, as vice moderator, succeeds Suzuki as moderator, said at the funeral service that Suzuki's life and death are characterized by three words--Prophet, Teacher, Witness. Suzuki was a prophetic leader, deeply concerned with the nations but, at the same time, he was a real pastor to his own congregation at Nishikatomachi Church, which he served for 23 years. He was also a Witness, who witnessed to his hope in Jesus Christ as he looked ahead seeing not death but the Day of Christ.

Suzuki is survived by his wife, his three daughters, and his mother.

"RELIGION AND PEACE" IS FALL SEMINAR THEME

An economist, a political scholar and two scholars of Buddhism will bring their varied perspectives to bear on the topic of "Religion and Peace" at the annual seminar sponsored by the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, according to Dr. Masatoshi Doi, director. The Seminar, held primarily for representatives of NCC-member bodies but open also to other interested persons, will be held Sept. 2-5 at Henshokoin Temple, Koya Mountain, Wakayama prefecture.

Speakers will be:

Prof. Kikuo Yamaoka, economics, Waseda University, on "The Economic Foundation for Peace, with special emphasis on the North-South Problem"

Prof. Masataka Kosaka, international politics, Kyoto University, on "A Pessimistic View of the Era of the '70s"

Prof. Yusho Miyasaka, Shingon Buddhism, Ryokoku University, on "The Shingon Sect"

Prof. Ryukichi Mori, history of Buddhist thought, Ryokoku University, on "The Buddhist Peace Movement and its Philosophical Foundation."

Registration fee of ¥3000 should be sent with the recommendation of the denomination to the NCC Center for the Study of Religions, Seiko Kai Kyoku Building, Shimotachiuri Agaru, Imadegawa Dori, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, the new location of the NCC Center offices. (Fee for non-members is slightly higher.)

NOTE: The May 1969 issue of Deai, Study Center journal, carries papers presented at the 1968 Seminar on Christianity and Shinto and also a review of the older book, Shinto no Kiso Chishiki to Kiso Mondai (The Basic Knowledge and Basic Problems of Shinto) which the reviewer says anyone concerned with the problem of Yasukuni Shrine should read.

LEE AND OGAWA TO WCC MEETING IN ENGLAND

Dr. In Ha Lee, interim general secretary of NCC, will attend the Central Committee meeting of the World Council of Churches August 12-23 in London in the capacity of consultant. Among the topics on the agenda is Development, with which Dr. Lee will be closely involved in the coming months as executive secretary of the 1970 Asian Development Conference.

Also attending the meeting will be Mr. Matthew Ogawa, who will be participating in the meeting as a member at the Information Committee.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR ECUMENICAL CENTER

Ground will be broken on Saturday, August 2, for the construction of the new Christian Center at the site of the Waseda Hoshien adjoining Waseda University campus in Shinjuku. The Center will consist of a six-story building in which will be housed the offices of the NCC, the Japan Baptist Union, The United Church of Christ, the Council of Cooperation, the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan, and the YMCA. A four-story annex will contain the Mass Communication Center of the Audio-Visuals Commission of the NCC (AVACO).

PROTESTANTS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS CONSIDER NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION

Roman Catholics and Protestants are beginning cooperative discussions of a new Japanese translation of the Bible, according to Japan Bible Society General Secretary Shunzo Miyauchi. Three joint committees, one on Exploring the Possibilities of Joint Translation, a second on Terminology, and a third an editorial committee for a bi-annual translation journal, held their first meetings July 21 and 22, looking toward publication of a modern translation that can be used by both Catholics and Protestants.

The colloquial translations presently being used by most Japanese Protestant church were produced in 1946 (the New Testament) and 1955 (the Old Testament). The Catholic translation is more recent, having been made in 1964.

Seisho Honyaku (Bible Translation) will be published twice a year and will contain reports of the work of the Committee on Terminology. Prof. Masashi Takahashi of Doshisha Theological Seminary is chief editor of Seisho Honyaku.

Members of the Committee on Exploring the Possibilities of Translation are: Z. Yelle, Kozaburo Hioki, Seita Iwamura, W. Holst, P. Nemeshegyi, B. Schneider, Chitose Kishi, Isamu Omura, Makoto Goto, Noah Brannen, Goro Maeda, Takeo Igarashi, Toshio Yamamoto, Masashi Takahashi, Shunzo Miyauchi.

The Committee on Terminology is composed of: Z. Yelle, B. Schneider, Kozaburo Hioki, Noboru Maekawa, Kiyoshi Hoshino, Shiro Murata, Chitose Kishi, Masashi Takahashi, Tatsundo Koizumi, Motosuke Ogushi, Eiji Suganuma, Kiyoshi Sakon, Akio Kobayashi, Kazuo Nakamura, Shunzo Miyauchi.

PENDING LEGISLATION

As JCAN readers well know, in recent months Christians have given much study, energy and action in the area of pending legislation in the Diet. One focus has been the bill to nationalize Yasukuni Shrine. Another has been the bill to establish a new immigration law. A third is the education control bill. Nine days now remain in the present extended session of the Diet. While it is impossible to say for certain what will happen, it seems improbable, as JCAN goes to press, that any of these bills will come to a vote. It is hard to tell whether or not in the future the voices of protest will be heeded, but at least it seems apparent that they have been heard.

HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS

...compiled by Ichiji Yokota

YOKOZUNA (GRAND CHAMPION) KASHIWADO ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT from active competition at the Nagoya Sumo Tournament, leaving Sumo, Japan's traditional sport, with only one grand champion--Taiho.

THE POISONING OF 25 AMERICANS AT AN OKINAWA BASE, reported by the Wall Street Journal, plus evidence that lethal gas weapons have been supplied to U.S. bases in Okinawa, has terrified Okinawans. Upon learning of the report, Okinawa Chief Executive Chobyō Yara protested to U.S. Armed Forces authorities. The Japanese government is also taking the problem very seriously.

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TOOK 54 SEATS in the July 13 Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly elections, a gain of 19. The Japan Socialist Party lost almost half of its previous seats, dropping to 24, behind Komeito. All 25 Komeito candidates were successful. The Communist Party made a big gain, winning 18 seats.

TOKYO UNIVERSITY, which was not allowed to conduct entrance exams and thus accepted no incoming class in 1969 due to turmoil, has announced its decision to conduct entrance exams in 1970.

APOLLO 11 WAS FIRST-PAGE NEWS ON ALL JAPANESE PAPERS EVERY DAY. Broadcasters gave it major time. NHK televised a 30-minute "Apollo Hour" at 9:00 every night. Many people sat up all night watching as the Eagle landed on the moon, and some offices gave employees the morning off, or brought in TV sets, so that all could see Armstrong step onto the surface of the moon.

JAPANESE ORGANIZERS OF AN INDUSTRIAL TRADE FAIR IN CHINA lost their damage suit against the Japanese government for losses due to restrictions it imposed on the list of products that could be exported for the exhibition, in accordance with the list drawn up by the Coordinating Committee for Exports to Communist Areas. But exhibitors feel they won in principal in that the Tokyo District Court also said such a ban is beyond the powers of the Minister of International Trade and Industry.

correction: in Headline-making Events of June 25, the Japan 1968 national income figure should have read \$141,900 million (we dropped a few zeros in converting the 51,092,000 million yen to dollars).